

**Harpswell Conservation Commission  
Minutes  
November 18, 2015**

**Opened Meeting:** 3:05 PM.

**Roll Call:** Mary Ann Nahf, Deirdre Strachan, Ann Nemrow, Anne Perry, Sue Vachon, Burr Taylor, Paul Ciesielski, Wendy Batson, resident, Mark Eyerman, Consultant Planner.

**Approval of 11/04 Minutes:** The minutes were unanimously approved as presented.

**Announcements:**

**Storm Water Conference:**

M. Nahf attended the NE Stormwater Conference in Portland 11/16. This year's focus was on planning for infrastructures to handle flooding from the increased number of heavy rain events. There were exhibits illustrating equipment associated with low impact development (LID) and displays of various permeable pavers and erosion control materials. The planning section described a town's storm water controls and specifications for subdivisions that might be useful for Harpswell's Flexible Lot Subdivisions.

**Town Planner:**

Until there is a permanent planner, M. Nahf reported that HCC would now concentrate on sketching out a time frame for needs prior to a meeting, and request the presence of the consultant planner to attend a meeting when needed. To this end, M. Eyerman was asked and planned to attend the 11/18 meeting at 4:00 PM. to help wordsmith, answer questions and set up a work plan and a schedule of tasks relating to the proposed new pesticide/fertilizer ordinance, prior to the Annual Meeting. D. Strachan suggested the HCC employ the planner's skills to decide the next move toward curbing dragging practices in fragile bay areas.

**Updates:**

**"Coastal Flooding Risk Assessment."**

W. Batson has been working on background information on the subject supplied by M. Nahf and D. Strachan. She and D. Strachan plan a brainstorm session to implement an action plan for the Commission to present to the Town. P. Ciesielski offered to provide his geological expertise when needed. Additional impacts from increased rainfall on land was briefly discussed.

**Otter Brook Farm:**

- D. Strachan reported that HHLT is now officially in agreement with the owners regarding the acquisition of two parcels constituting 69 acres to be preserved in the Otter Brook corridor.
- HHLT is now updating its materials to include both sites for the fundraising campaign. HHLT will contact the Selectmen to advise them of the additional acreage prior to meeting with the Budget Advisory Committee 11/24.

**Motion:**

Move to support the acquisition of an additional 39 acres in the Otter Brook Corridor Focus Area because it adjoins and builds on the protections put in place by the Town on the Hildreth Rd. property across from Otter Brook, and has extensive fresh water marshes. It also increases public recreational capabilities.

**Reducing Pesticide Usage:**

A. Perry summarized the Q/A residential returns collected at the voting locales on election day as follows: Out of 70+ returns, 4 used professional landscapers, 20 used pesticides to curb insect infestations like Brown Tail Moth, and 55 used no pesticides except for local applications in order to assure health and safety, such as for wasp nests. There were several interesting comments that were noted.

**New:****Pesticide and Fertilizer Control Ordinance Proposal:**

M. Eyerman presented a brief overview of his past involvements with the Town since the 1980's. They ran the gamut from plans for Mitchell Field, Subdivision Ordinances, EMS Facility, Economic Development and, now, work on an ordinance change on Pesticide and Fertilizer use.

Discussion ensued on amendments to be included for presentation to the Selectmen on 11/18. The goal is for accuracy and consistency.

**1. The following word-smithing changes** were noted for each section with the help of M. Eyerman.

- Title change to the Ordinance: "Outside Pesticide Control and Fertilizer Use."
- Remove fertilizer restrictions from Shoreline Zoning and embed into the Pesticide Ordinance.
- Add a number of new definitions to Section 2 - Neonicotinoid, Broadcast Application, Beneficial Terrestrial Invertebrates, and Weed and Feed Fertilizers.
- Section 3. Use of Licensed Pesticide Applicators only for restricted pesticides.
- Add the neurotoxin Neonicotinoid (NeoNic) to the list of chemicals prohibited outdoors.
- Redefine Section 4a outlining the impact NeoNics have on crustaceans, and Section 4b on pollinators.
- Spell out High Annual Tide (HAT) in Section 5.
- Match the language of "Random Sampling" with that of Prohibitions.
- Of interest: The enclosed bodies of water of great ponds are claimed and controlled by the State. Harpswell has one great pond "Dan's Pond," located between Gun Point and Long Point on Great Island.

**2. M. Eyerman posed a list of questions** for HCC to resolve before presenting the Pesticide Ordinance to the public. They relate to the need to explain the changes and the impact they will have on local residents.

**3. M. Nahf presented a Work Plan** to follow in the next three months to make sure that all the requirements are met in a timely fashion, since the required scheduling is tight.

- HCC to further refine the ordinance and have it completed by the next 12/04 meeting, following M. Nahf's presentation of the revised draft proposal to the Planning Board at their 11/18 meeting.
- Bring the Planning Board and Board of Selectmen up to speed - what is proposed and why it is necessary.
- Arrange a Public Workshop, held by the Planning Board at their first December meeting.
- A copy of the Ordinance must be sent to the State for their approval ninety days prior to a vote at the Annual Meeting. M. Eyerman will contact the State.
- M. Eyerman to set a work schedule of tasks to be completed to the HCC prior to Town Meeting.

**4. Other tasks to be completed by HCC:**

- Compile a handout sheet listing safer alternatives for common problems (ongoing.)
- Develop a list of organizations, arborists and lawn care professionals to solicit their support for the Ordinance.
- Update the HCC web page to stay current with the initiative.
- Submit January and February articles to the Anchor and Forecaster, the Town Bulletin and Harpswell's TV.
- Solicit support from Maine Fishing Alliance, Marine Resource Committee and the Garden Club.
- Research and identify products proven unsafe for aquatic organisms.
- Develop a lead-in conversation and talking points for public presentation.
- A. Perry offered to begin to work on the safer alternatives list to have for the public.

**Vote:** Refer to page two.

It was unanimously approved to craft a letter of support for HHLT's purchase of the second parcel to the Board of Selectmen.

**Adjourned:** 5:15 PM.

**Meetings:** 12/02, 12/16 at 3:00 PM.

**Scribe:** Ann Nemrow.